



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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July 22, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *je*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2009 WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON**

This is an update on Department of Public Health (DPH) activities to reduce the impact of West Nile Virus (WNV) during the 2009 mosquito season.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

DPH works cooperatively with the local Mosquito and Vector Control Districts (Districts), the public health departments of Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon, and the Department of Public Works (DPW) in taking actions and preventative measures to effectively manage mosquitoes and their potential breeding sites. The WNV Interagency Task Force of Los Angeles County, consisting of all the mosquito and vector control districts, public health departments, the State and other local agencies, have remained in contact since the last mosquito season and continue to communicate on current control issues. Future meetings are scheduled to review present mosquito control methods and future issues expected for the current mosquito season.

A number of Districts and DPH have pooled resources and will be launching a radio and web campaign to alert local residents of potential mosquito breeding in the coming months, and to provide information on preventive measures. The ads will run through June and may continue throughout the season, if budgets permit.

THE WEST NILE VIRUS COOPERATIVE PLAN

The DPH WNV Cooperative Plan outlines the responsibilities for various DPH units, including Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC), the Public Health Laboratory, Veterinary Public Health, and Environmental Health (EH). DPW is also included as a participating agency in the Plan. The Plan was successfully implemented during the 2007 mosquito season and will continue to be used this season. ACDC coordinates the surveillance for human cases, Veterinary Public Health conducts bird surveillance, and EH works with the Vector Control Districts to provide mosquito surveillance and control services on a countywide basis.

Securing mosquito control services in unincorporated areas continues to be a major component of the Plan. The service agreement between DPH and the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, providing coverage for unincorporated areas of Agua Dulce, Acton, Lake Elizabeth, Lake Hughes, Leona Valley, Littlerock, Lake Los Angeles, and Pearblossom has again been negotiated and approved. This year, due to early evidence of mosquito breeding, services began in April and will continue through November 2009.

Negotiations for annexation continue with the cities of Baldwin Park and La Canada-Flintridge. There are strong indications that the voting process may be finalized this year, with a potential positive outcome guaranteeing annexation in time for the 2010 season. The Districts continue to contract their services on a seasonal basis to both cities while they await the annexation process, thus ensuring appropriate abatement coverage for residents. The City of South Pasadena continues to provide independent abatement services to its residents.

DPH and the Districts, working as the WNV Interagency Task Force, continue to utilize various media venues to provide innovative and informative public outreach messages that enhance public awareness and education concerning WNV. Forums conducted by members of the Task Force include presentations to community groups, schools, and various city and County agencies, direct mailings, and cable spots. Additionally, in an effort to provide a comprehensive approach and effectively address the multi-cultural diversity of the County, an informational handout, available in ten different languages, is regularly distributed at public outreach events. Organizations and individuals can visit the Acute Communicable Disease Control website, <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/vectorwestnileed.htm>, to view, download, or order the handout and/or a variety WNV educational materials.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VECTOR CONTROL ENVIRONMENTAL TASKFORCE

The Southern California Vector Control Environmental Taskforce (SCVCET) is a voluntary organization comprised of vector control agencies throughout Southern California that addresses environmental concerns directly or indirectly affecting the prevention, detection, and management of mosquitoes. SCVCET has been successful in networking with a number of State and federal agencies to address mosquito breeding issues, including:

- Specific language regarding vectors was crafted and submitted to the California Environmental Protection Agency with the suggestion the language should be added to the Environmental Impact Report requirements. It is anticipated that the suggested prerequisites will assist developers and project planners in recognizing and evaluating projects for potential mosquito breeding and other public health vector issues.
- The SCVCET has been meeting separately with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop language regarding potential mosquito breeding incorporated in project permits. It is anticipated that these changes will effectively resolve issues related to ongoing maintenance problems and data sharing, and ensure that SCVCET members are added to distribution lists for new project permits.

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- Petitions have been submitted to CDFG and United States Fish and Wildlife for approval to breed and distribute native, endangered, or threatened fish species for use in natural areas for mosquito control.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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PH:708:004

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director of Public Works
Mosquito and Vector Control Districts
Mayors and Directors of Public Health, Cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon